

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Park and Recreation Conference Room
11th Floor, City Hall
Monday, March 8, 2010
3:00 p.m.**

Present: Bryan Frye, Andy Solter, Cindy Claycomb, Tom Roth, Matt Goolsby, Randy Brown

Absent: John Stevens

Also Present: Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation, Karen Walker, Assistant Director of Park and Recreation, Sharon Dickgrafe, Assistant City Attorney, Lee Ann Sack, Clerk

President Frye called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 p.m.

PUBLIC AGENDA

None.

REGULAR AGENDA

Item 1: Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Goolsby, second by Solter, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Park Board regular meeting minutes of February 8, 2010.

Item 2A: City Ordinance 9.03

Kupper informed the Board that Draft City Ordinance 9.03 had been presented to all District Advisory Boards with few comments or proposed changes. The ordinance is ready for presentation to City Council.

Claycomb asked the difference between riding, biking, and walking trails.

Kupper suggested that riding and biking trails may be similar, but walking trails are not as wide and some are not paved. Kupper asked Dickgrafe to review the ordinance for consistency of terms.

Claycomb asked for clarification of Section 31 prohibiting hot air balloons, hang gliders and sky divers from landing in the parks. Emergency landings should not be subject to a fine.

Kupper informed the Board that instances have occurred where repeated landings are compromising the safety of citizens using the parks. Permits will allow areas to be cleared of citizens so landings can be done safely, without injury to people on the ground.

Dickgrafe informed the Board that all ordinances have the discretion to enforce if the situation warrants.

Goolsby inquired who had the authority to issue citations.

Dickgrafe said the Police Department. Park staff could issue citations under certain situations, although additional steps would have to be taken through Municipal Court.

Claycomb suggested Section 35(b) concerning feeding animals be amended to include “unless such feeding area has been allowed”. There is a growing problem with the Canadian Geese.

Dickgrafe said the ordinance could be amended to include that language.

Solter said there was a need for publicity of the feeding ban supported by the ordinance number.

Brown supported the need for citizen education on the unhealthy impact on feeding the geese as well as the environmental pollution the geese cause.

Kupper stated all signs will carry the ordinance number. Existing signs will be amended. A news channel published a story a few weeks ago about the problems of feeding Canadian Geese.

Claycomb stated that citizens continue to feed geese. Although they do not feed them on the riverbank where signs prohibit the activity, citizens feed them across the street or on the playgrounds. The problem is going to continue.

Motion by Claycomb, second by Solter, to amend Section 35(b) to read; It is unlawful for any person to feed a wild animal or bird in any area unless such feeding has been allowed by signs placed by the Director.

Goolsby said this is stupid.

Frye asked how Goolsby would like the ordinance to read.

Goolsby stated it was ridiculous we are now regulating citizens that they cannot feed stale bread to animals. If we want to get rid of the geese, we should kill them.

Kupper said unfortunately due to the Migratory Bird Act, there are protections in place for Canadian Geese.

Goolsby stated this is a blatant attack on a specific class of citizens that enjoy feeding the birds. They cannot afford movies or other entertainment and enjoy this activity as free entertainment for themselves and their children. Goose poop is not an invasion of the outdoor environment. Goolsby would like to have this provision removed from the ordinance and leave the rest of the ordinance as is.

Brown agreed with the argument, but supported the ordinance.

Kupper stated currently Draft Ordinance 9.03 Section 35(b) states that feeding is prohibited by signs designating the restricted area. The motion would prohibit feeding except where permission is posted. No signs would designate an area as a feeding area. There may be some fish feeding stations at Great Plains Nature Center and Botanica, but no other animal feeding would be promoted.

Claycomb said this would eliminate signs and eliminate feeding of animals.

Brown asked if Goolsby was against the motion because it would be a park wide ban of feeding the animals.

Goolsby said he opposed a park wide ban.

Brown promoted a press release to notify citizens of the feeding ban and the reasons for it. This might encourage public discussion.

Goolsby said it was sad to have the discussion after the ordinance is approved.

Roth was concerned that if the motion passed, there would not be any feeding allowed areas posted.

Kupper reminded the Board that the ordinance had been to all DAB's and presented at two Park Board meetings and has received minimal input.

Brown asked when the ordinance would go into effect.

Dickgrafe stated it would be in effect after two public readings at City Council and subsequent publication.

Solter stated he supported the motion to amend the ordinance.

Frye asked for a vote on the motion before the Board.

Motion by Claycomb, second by Solter, to amend Section 35(b) to read; It is unlawful for any person to feed a wild animal or bird in any area unless such feeding has been allowed by signs placed by the Director. The Board voted 3-3, MOTION FAILED. Claycomb, Solter, Brown approve, Frye, Roth, Goolsby dissent.

Frye asked if there was another way to make a teachable moment for the public concerning the changes to the ordinance.

Brown asked for a press release detailing major changes before the ordinance goes to City Council. That will give the public time to contact their representative with any concerns they might have.

Kupper stated as there are no fundamental changes, Draft Ordinance 9.03 will be taken to City Council. He will write a press release to detail all major changes from Ordinance 9.04 to Draft Ordinance 9.03.

Item 2B: Wichita Play Commission

Frye stated the main point was to appoint Board member replacements for the Commission. The Board should be involved in other endeavors and find appropriate representatives for the Wichita Play Commission.

Kupper suggested they find someone to move the Commission forward. Any major developments would come back to the Board.

Claycomb reminded the Board that if members remain on the Commission, a possibility of a Park Board quorum at Commission meeting is possible, violating the Open Meetings Act. Meeting dates would need to be published as other meetings the Park Board might attend.

Frye asked when the next meeting was scheduled.

Walker stated the next meeting for the Wichita Play Commission is scheduled for April 15, 2010. A meeting notice will be sent.

Frye asked for future meetings of the Wichita Play Commission to be published as other meetings where the Park Board may be in attendance.

Item 2C: Chapin Park Dedication

Kupper would like to suggest April 10 or April 17, 2010 for a dedication date. Activities may be planned for the entire day. A radio control flying demonstration is being coordinated. The Fire Department is contacting ATF, Sheriff, and the Wichita Police Department for all available service canines to be in attendance. Mountain Bike riding, bike safety inspections and kite flying is being considered.

Claycomb will be unavailable for either date.

Goolsby inquired when the dog park naming will be on City Council agenda.

Kupper replied April 6, 2010.

On a motion by Brown, second by Solter, IT WAS VOTED TO APPROVE April 17 as the dedication date for Chapin Park and the new dog park. 5 approve, Roth dissent.

Goolsby asked if a time had been determined.

Kupper stated a time and list of activities will be sent.

Goolsby requested the Annual Play Day be advertised at the event.

Kupper affirmed and added that foam boards displaying Phase II of Chapin Park will also be displayed as those funds have been appropriated.

Solter asked if it was too early to start promoting Kingsbury.

Kupper stated that the promotion of the Kingsbury site is part of Walker's 2010 goals and will start fundraising campaigns or facility naming rights during the year.

Item 3A: Park Board Goals

Frye outlined the preliminary assignments from the February meeting. Absent Board members were asked if the previous assignments were acceptable.

Goolsby accepted the assignment of Goal 6;

Move toward more 'Green' policies and procedures associated with the Board of Park Commissioners. Apply 'Green' policies toward Riverbank maintenance and product usage.

Brown accepted the assignment of Goal 7;

Develop a Park Marketing and Communication Strategic Plan

A. Actively search for Grant opportunities.

B. Advocate for a full time marketing/communication position in the Park and Recreation Dept.

C. Advocate for an intern position to assist the marketing/communication position.

On a motion by Frye, second by Claycomb, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE member assignments of Frye Item 1, Claycomb Item 2, Roth Item 3, Stevens Item 4, Goolsby Item 6, Brown Item 7, Solter Item 8, Item 5 completed.

Item 4: Review of Pending Issues

Kupper informed the Board that three agendas are submitted for April 6, 2010, City Council agenda.

1. Naming of 55th and Hydraulic, Peach Tree Park

2. Naming of Arson Canine Ashley's Memorial Dog Park

3. Renaming of Edgemoor Skate Park, Ryan Woodward Memorial Skate Park

Goolsby asked if these would be New Business.

Kupper affirmed.

Kupper stated Draft Ordinance 9.08 will need to go back to DAB's 1 and 4 by request after amendments have been made. Those DAB's requested follow up in 60 days. Staff will be working on those changes, re-presentation to those DAB's and the Park Board.

Item 5: Updates from the Director and President

Claycomb spent several hours with staff reviewing Park and Recreation financial information and processes to facilitate her accomplishment of Park Board Goal 2.

Frye offered congratulations and thanks to Thane Rogers, who is retiring from Park and Recreation after 37 years of service with Forestry. His service was instrumental to the tree canopy in Wichita.

Frye asked when Martz, Superintendant of Park and Recreation will be retiring.

Kupper stated Martz will be retiring in the fall. Five other key employees will be retiring in 2010. This is in addition to the five open positions in forestry, four open positions in park maintenance and vacancies from the 2009 hiring freeze. There is a possibility that another hiring freeze will be implemented soon.

May 21 will be the 3rd Annual Bob Martz Memorial Golf Tournament at Auburn Hills. Proceeds go to youth golf programs; Junior Golf and Hook a Kid on Golf.

Frye asked about the summer swimming pool schedule due to economic conditions.

Kupper stated the pools are expected to be closed on Monday and open the other 6 days as it was in 2009. College Hill contributed funds to have their pool open 7 days a week. Swim Team and swimming lessons will continue.

Roth asked who the Board would like to have presenting at future meetings in promotion of Park Board Goal 3.

Kupper suggested a member of the Health and Wellness Coalition. Their goals are tightly connected with the functions of Park and Recreation.

Roth asked Kupper to invite the Health and Wellness Coalition to a future meeting.

Walker will have a Draft Annual Report for PROS 2009 to the Park Board for review and feedback in a couple of weeks. An April publishing is planned.

Frye asked for the final report to be placed on the city website for public viewing.

Claycomb asked for a Spring Tour of Facilities at the spring retreat.

The next scheduled meeting of the Park Board is April 19, 2010, 3:00 p.m.

Item 7: Adjourn

There being no further business, Frye adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:20 p.m.

Bryan Frye, President

Lee Ann Sack, Clerk